

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A method to prevent, delay or alleviate macular degeneration characterized by fluid leakage from new blood ~~vessels~~ vessel proliferation in the macula of a patient comprising

providing an effective amount of a photosensitive agent to the vessels and thereafter activating said agent with a low energy light to damage said vessels, and

directing to the macula a high energy light sufficient to generate heat to coagulate said fluid, to reduce fluid accumulation,

thereby ~~alleviating~~ controlling both vessel proliferation and fluid leakage.

2.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the low energy light is applied before the high energy light.

3.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the high energy light is applied before the low energy light.

4.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the photosensitive agent is selected from the group consisting of verteporfin, protoporphyrin, SnET2, NPe6, ATX-106, ICG, and BPD-MA.

5.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the photosensitive agent is verteporfin activated at about 50 J/cm² at an intensity of about 600 mW/cm².

6.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the high energy light is from an argon or diode laser.

7.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the high energy light is applied in spots of sizes in the range of about 50 µm to about 500 µm.

8.(Original) The method of claim 7 wherein between about 50 to about 500 spots are administered.

9.(Currently Amended) A method to improve visual acuity in an eye of a patient with macular degeneration characterized by fluid leakage from new blood vessels in the macula comprising

providing an effective amount of a photosensitive agent to the vessels and thereafter activating said agent with low energy light to damage said vessels, and directing to the macula high energy light sufficient to generate heat to coagulate [[said]] fluid to reduce leakage from the vessels.

10.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the low energy light is applied before the high energy light.

11.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the high energy light is applied before the low energy light.

12.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the photosensitive agent is selected from the group consisting of verteporfin, protoporphyrin, SnET2, NPe6, ATX-106, ICG, and BPD-MA.

13.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the photosensitive agent is verteporfin activated at about 50 J/cm² at an intensity of about 600 mW/cm².

14.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the high energy light is from an argon or diode laser.

15.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the high energy light is applied in spots of size in the range of about 50 μ m to about 500 μ m.

16.(Original) The method of claim 15 wherein between about 50 to about 500 spots are administered.

17 - 24.(Canceled)

25.(Original) A therapeutic method to slow progression of macular degeneration in a patient having or at risk for developing macular degeneration in an eye comprising treating said eye with both photodynamic therapy and laser coagulation therapy within an interval of ninety days.

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26 - 27.(Canceled)
